

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 03468 030455Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
HA-05 /066 W
-----098963 031154Z /13
R 030410Z MAR 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2451

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: ENRILE DETAILS CHARGE OF
AQUINO-CIA LINK

REF: MANILA 3338

1. DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE CONTINUES HIS ALLEGATIONS OF A CONNECTION BETWEEN OPPOSITION LEADER BENIGNO AQUINO AND THE CIA (REFTEL). IN A "FACE THE NATION" TELEVISION INTERVIEW MARCH 2, ENRILE TOLD INTERVIEWERS THAT AQUINO HAD PERSONALLY TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS TRAINED BY THE CIA IN 1954. ASKED IF HE BELIEVED THE STORY, ENRILE SAID: "IT IS UP TO THE CIA OR THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO CONFIRM OR DENY THIS."

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NEWS REPORT OF THE INTERVIEW, FROM LATE EDITION OF TIMES JOURNAL MARCH 3.

BEGIN TEXT: SECRETARY ENRILE LAST NIGHT REVEALED A DECLASSIFIED INFORMATION THAT FORMER SENATOR AQUINO JR. HAD TRAINED UNDER THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) SOMETIME IN 1954.

IN A NATIONWIDE INTERVIEW ON CHANNEL 4 WITH MEMBERS OF
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THE DEFENSE PRESS CORPS, ENRILE SAID AQUINO HIMSELF REVEALED HIS TRAINING WITH THE CIA.

THE DEFENSE OFFICIALS SAID AQUINO MENTIONED THE NAME OF FORMER CIA AGENT OTTO JOHN AS ONE OF AQUINO'S CLASSMATES DURING HIS TRAINING.

AQUINO, ACCORDING TO ENRILE, ALSO MENTIONED HIS
CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH FORMER CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS.

ENRILE SAID AQUINO CONFIDED TO HIM HIS (AQUINO'S)
CONNECTIONS WITH THE CIA BEFORE MARTIAL LAW AND DURING A
MEETING IN HIS CELL IN FORT BONIFACION IN JULY 1974.

DURING SAID MEETING, ENRILE RECALLED, THE FORMER
TARLAC SOLON ALSO CONFIDED TO HIM THE INTEREST OF THE
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN AQUINO'S POLITICAL PLANS. ENRILE
SAID AQUINO TOLD HIM A U.S. OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY ASKED
THE FORMER SOLON IF HE WAS STILL INTERESTED IN BECOMING
THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.
ENRILE SAID AQUINO WAS VISITED BY AN EMISSARY OF
WILLIAM SULLIVAN, THEN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE
PHILIPPINES.

SAYING THAT HIS INFORMATION WAS BASED ON DECLASSIFIED
DOCUMENTS, ENRILE SAID AQUINO HAD ALSO MENTIONED INVOLVEMENT
IN A CERTAIN "INDONESIAN AFFAIR."

NO DETAILS ON THIS PARTICULAR CIA OPERATION WAS
HOWEVER MENTIONED IN THE REPORT, ENRILE TOLD INTERVIEWERS.

ASKED IF HE BELIEVED AQUINO WAS A CIA AGENT,
ENRILE SAID, HE COULD NOT MAKE ANY CONCLUSION, AS HE
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WAS MERELY QUOTING AQUINO'S OWN STATEMENT.

"IT'S UP TO THE CIA OR THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
TO CONFIRM OR DENY THIS, "THE SECRETARY SAID." END
TEXT.
STULL

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